

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC HEARING ON OFF HIGHWAY
RECREATIONAL VEHICLES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2008***

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm. Selectmen present were: Wes Moore, Michael Woodworth, and Rosanne Gilbert. Town Planner Clay Mitchell and Police Chief Arthur Reed were also in attendance. Four residents attended.

Wes Moore explained the results of his extensive research on the use of golf carts on class 5 roads.

- ❖ The Board of Selectmen has the authority to allow OHRV use on class 5 roads.
- ❖ NH Fish & Game registers golf carts under the “other” category for use as OHRVs.
- ❖ All OHRVs, including golf carts must be used for recreational purposes only. If an OHRV is used for transportation, it is no longer considered an OHRV and is instead considered a motor vehicle.
- ❖ Golf carts cannot be registered as motor vehicles with the Department of Motor Vehicles.
- ❖ The Board of Selectmen, when designating class 5 roads for use by OHRVs, cannot discriminate between one OHRV and another. All OHRVs must be allowed. This means golf carts, ATVs, snowmobiles, and any other vehicle classified by NH Fish and Game as OHRVs.

Jeff Buxton has a golf cart that he purchased to use in a campground. He said it would be nice to use it in his neighborhood. It goes 15 mph, he has insurance on it, and it has seat belts. No one under the age of 16 may operate the golf cart.

Jeff stated that 17 communities in Maine allow golf carts on roads as do many communities in the southern United States.

He said that Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter uses golf carts. It was explained that those golf carts are allowed to cross a road as all other OHRVs, but cannot travel on a road. This applies to lawn tractors too.

Wes suggested that the group ask their legislators to work on re-classifying golf carts. Michael said that the group needs a vision – do they want year round use or only summer months – go anywhere – use sidewalks – how many other neighborhoods or residents are interested in this.

Rosanne said that the Town of Newfields should follow whatever the law is and she is concerned with the safety of the public if golf carts are on the roads.

Jeff will do some research on what other towns are looking for a change in golf cart use and classification.

The general consensus was that the residents do not want broad coverage for OHRVs such as snowmobiles, dirt bikes, etc. on class 5 roads, but only use by golf carts.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer
Administrative Assistant